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#### **Get Out Alive!**

Dropping out of school is a long-term ticket to dead end jobs.

#### **LEARNING THE HARD WAY**

A Street Kid's Perspective.

#### I went Back!

**Dustin's Story.** 

Skill Building Basics

How the things you like about yourself can help you win on the job. Start tracking your success with our quick quiz.

An Interview with

#### **Brad Roberts**

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of the Crash Test Dummies.

Trade Secrets— The Key is Apprenticeship!

STRESSED OUT?

Survival tips that help you deal with stress and manage your time.

zooming in on your career

How to start figuring out what you want to do.

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# If high school gets you do you've probably thought about dropping out. You're not alone.

you've probably thought about dropping out. You're not alone. Right now, one third of all students leave school. There are lots of reasons, but deep down you know leaving is a bad plan. It's temporary relief in exchange for lifelong headaches.

You've heard the scary stuff about leaving. Like what's out there right now. No jobs. Dead

# Work it out WITHOUT walking out

end jobs.
Flipping
cheeseburgers.
Hauling

boxes. Hustling packages on mountain bikes.

Maybe you have to find out for yourself, but anyone who's been there can tell you it takes a lot of guts and determination to go back to school once you've been out on your own for awhile. Staying in now is the easy way out. With a bit of planning, finishing school can give you a shot at real freedom. Don't get stranded.

Find a way to stay.

S100,000 ESS

in a lifetime compared to high school graduates;

- dropouts are unemployed more often and for longer periods
- dropouts have more problems finding a job
- most dropouts work in lower level occupations

#### Steve:

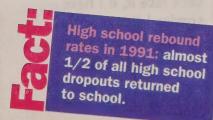
441'm 18. The only way I can make ends meet is to share a house with three other guys. We only have three bedrooms, so one of us has to sleep in the living-room. You never get any privacy, and sometimes I don't want to hang out when I get home from work. The first few months were great, but I wish I could just be left alone."

Julie:

11 left home when I was 17 and moved into a place by myself. I have to share a bathroom with the people downstairs, and all my stuff is in one room. I can't afford to go out, and this place is too small for my friends to come over much. I thought quitting school and getting my own apartment would make me more independent. It didn't. Now I'm just answering to more people all the time - my boss, the landlord, my parents, the neighbours...

#### Dan:

44 When I quit school, my parents told me they'd help me get set up - but that was it. Once I started working, I was on my own. No matter how hard I try, I just don't seem to have enough to get by. I'm always calling my parents to help me pay the hydro bill or buy me a bus pass or something. It's really humiliating and I hate it, but I don't know what else to do. 77



Some things might be easier on your own. But minimum wage usually means maximum grind. Listen to Scott:

"I'm 17. I left school last year and got this job at a building supply depot. It's 40 hours a week at \$5.55 an hour. I thought it would be OK – \$800 a month after taxes. But the money just covers rent, groceries, phone, electricity, subway – that's it. Unless I get overtime I'm always broke."

Here's how life on minimum wage can add up (based on \$4.80 per hour, which is the average minimum wage across Canada for people under 18).

Monthly Income  Monthly Expenses	Big City \$768	Smal Town \$768
Rent – Bachelor Apartment Telephone (no long distance) Electricity Cable TV Groceries Transportation (bus pass) Entertainment Total	\$455 21 62 18 278 56	\$380 14 38 14 295 34
Monthly Debt	\$890 \$122	\$775

Leaving school is a long-term ticket to no-money land - zero for music, entertainment,

travel, a car. First jobs are, you know, first jobs – a place to start, another way to discover what you like to do. But without a plan you could get stuck there forever.

A THE TRACTOR

When Andrée was 12, she was sexually assaulted. The trauma she experienced was such that she blocked the incident from her memory, with the help of drugs and alcohol. Staying in school became impossible, so she dropped out and ended up alcohol. Staying two years on the street before getting treatment. Now 18, Andrée has been spending two years and hopes to graduate from high school this fall.

I was 12, I started helping out on a farm near my grandmother's cottage. The second summer I was there, the guy
who owned the place sexually assaulted me in front of the
other guys. I was ashamed and thought it was my fault.
I wasn't ready to deal with it, and I couldn't tell my
parents, so I just blocked it all out.

When I started grade 7, I felt like I was different and didn't belong. I had suicidal thoughts all the time. No one else took drugs or drank at that time. I'd get drunk by myself before, during and after school – it became hard to hide the drinking. I ran away for the first time when I was 13.

I became a street kid and ended up in Toronto living with a bunch of guys in an abandoned building. In the middle of a high, reality struck. I woke up in a park. I looked in a mirror and didn't even recognize myself. I knew I had to get help, so I went to a place that helps street kids and they got me back home.

After a day, I was back into denial. My parents said I had to get treatment or get out. I finally chose treatment and spent several months at a centre.

Slowly, the memories came back...

It's hard to be back at school. I have a hard time relating to people my age. It was hard for teachers to understand. I'm making it though -I'll be graduating this year. I definitely want to go to university because I like studying. The bottom line is life is hard. But there are a lot of beautiful things in life too. You have to work and do things like laundry that's just the way it is. Let's face it, if I have survived this much. I can survive anything!"

Learning the Way

Andrée's Story

THE 4 EDGE

"I made it all the way to the last two months of grade 11, then I just couldn't do it anymore. I was 15, and I guess I just hung around with the wrong crowd, started drinking a bit, and dropped out. I just didn't care about school. I mean, school was great for seeing people, but that was

about it.

I went back the next year, but only lasted a month. I just hung around, did some crazy stuff, got into trouble. My parents said I had to either go back to school or get a job, so I chose school. I only lasted two weeks when I went back in the second semester. My parents were really mad, and my girlfriend tried to talk me into staying, but it wasn't any good. I knew I needed an education, but I wanted to hang out in the mall more than sit in a classroom.

I looked for work and actual rhad a job lined up, but it didn't

work out. I just sat around waiting for something to come up, but nothing ever did. Being out of school was an adventure, but it wasn't a totally happy experience. It taught me some life skills, but it also made me realize that I really wanted to go back. I had nobody to talk to because all my friends were in school!

I finally went back for a third year of grade 11 and made it. I had some great teachers

Dustin's
Story

Dustin (18) is a grade 12 native student who spent two years dropping in and out of school. He finished grade 11 on his third attempt, but only

after spending many months looking for work,

getting into trouble, and learning that there isn't much out there for someone with no education and

and that really made a big difference for me. I'm more my own person now – I don't just follow what other people do anymore.

no life plan.

Went Bac

Some of what happened was about being a teenager, and some of it was about being a native person. Knowing that my parents stayed in school and accomplished something makes a difference to me because native kids often think they can't make it as easily as other kids.

Now I feel I have to do something with my life to be a good role model for my younger brothers and my sister. I don't want them pointing at me and thinking they don't have to finish school because I'm a dropout.

Being in school makes me feel good about myself now. I feel like I really turned my life around. I never used to care enough to go back, but now I care enough to stay."

# SKAIN MINISTERS TO THE TOTAL STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

Check off what's you. Add something new. Discover working talents you may not know you have.

#### IF you...

# Say this to an employer...

... are straight with people and do what you say you will...

I am honest and reliable. I get straight to the point.

... can think of 10 different ways of doing everything...

I've got valuable working skills. I am creative and have the ability to solve problems.

... are tough and can hold your own...

I am determined, direct and assertive.

... care about people and are patient...

I am caring, sensitive and people-oriented.

... know when to run and still own your great jacket...

I respond quickly to situations. I am alert and perceptive.

... are green and plan to thrive in a recycled world...

I am adaptable and environmentally conscious.

You've already got lots of what it takes. Translated into working-world thinking, your

strong points can open doors.

Most people have more career direction than they think. The things you like about yourself, the things you do all the time – these are the basics of great job skills. You just have to define your strong points and build on them. How do you do that? The list below can help you get started.

#### IF you...

## Say this to an employer...

... are organized and you arranged 350 cassettes alphabetically...

I am orderly and methodical. I have strong organizational skills.

... can handle chaos – your cassettes are a mess, but you find what you want...

I am flexible and effective. I work well under pressure.

... are cool – you're a trendsetter and everyone copies your haircut...

I am dynamic and confident. I am a self-starter.

... make or sew whatever you like and can't keep up with your agile fingers...

I have excellent manual dexterity, fine motor skills and an eye for detail.

... crunch numbers and eat math problems for breakfast...

I have great math skills. I am precise and analytical.

... are good at talking on the phone...

I communicate well. I am sociable and enjoy working with people.

... do a classic jump shot – you know the secret of practice...

I am persistent, determined, motivated and goal-oriented.



#### An interview with Brad Roberts

With the runaway success of their first album, **The Ghosts That Haunt Me**, and their first single, **Superman's Song**, the Crash Test Dummies leapt to the top of the Canadian charts. The album sold over 300,000 copies — a supernatural performance for a Canadian debut disk. Success came as a surprise to the group. The band started rolling about five years ago,



#### of the Crash Test Dummies

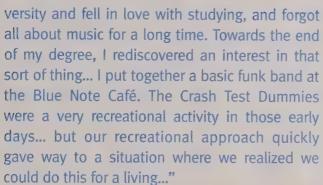
mainly for fun, at Winnipeg's Blue Note Café, but was eventually drawn to the recording studio. Band members are Brad Roberts (lead singer and songwriter), Ellen Reid (vocals and keyboards), Dan Roberts (bass), Ben Darvill (harmonica and mandolin) and Mitch Dorge (drums). Recently, Brad shared some thoughts on life and music in an exclusive **Edge** interview.



**The Edge:** When did you first decide to become a musician?

Brad Roberts: "Well, when I was a little kid, my parents made me take piano lessons, which in

retrospect I'm glad about. I hate to admit that my parents succeeded in forcing me to do something I didn't want to do, but it turned out to be a good thing. Later on, I took guitar lessons, listened to a lot of KISS, Alice Cooper, and wanted to be a rock star. When I was — about eighteen or so — I went to uni-



**The Edge:** Were you lucky to become successful so quickly?

Brad Roberts: "Yes, it was a stroke of luck. I didn't actually intend to ship out our demo tape to the major labels when I was putting it together. I was working out some songs in a studio because I wanted to see how they would come across on tape. We sent the tapes off to a few folk festivals around Canada, thinking 'wouldn't it be great to

play someplace other than Winnipeg for once?' That demo tape ended up in the right hands and was passed on to various record industry people. It started getting all this attention, and suddenly we were in the limelight, as it were."

The Edge: The music business is very competitive. What kind of pressures do you face daily?

Brad Roberts: "The road is really a grind. You don't have any time to yourself. You're either

travelling from point A to point B in a bus with twelve people on it, or you're doing a string of interviews all afternoon. In the evenings, you've got a show to do, and afterwards there's usually a kind of 'meet and greet' session with various industry people. Then you go home and pass out.

The next day you get up and do it all again. It's definitely not glamorous."

**The Edge:** If you hadn't become a musician, what would you have done with your life?

**Brad Roberts:** "I probably would have gone on to pursue graduate studies, done a Ph.D. in

English literature and taught at a university."

The Edge: So education is important to you. What would you say to kids considering dropping out of school today?

Brad Roberts: "Well, it sounds clichéd, but I would have to say that you just end up closing a lot of doors you might want to open later. When you are in high school, you don't think you are going to want to go to university a lot of the time. High school

can be a drag. But university is much better. I think it's worth going through the difficulty of high school so you can go on and get an education that is actually interesting and worthwhile."



I finished
high school
and it's the
smartest
decision
Lever made

Take a minute and look around you. Chances are you can see ten things that would not have been possible without trades and technology. The building that you're standing in, for example. A tradesperson had to build the walls. Another tradesperson had to put in the electrical outlets, another the plumbing. And that's just one building. Think about how you started your day. Perhaps you awoke to an electric-powered clock radio, took a hot shower and "nuked" some breakfast in the microwave. These things, that we take for granted, are only now possible because of advances in technology and the skill of tradespeople. The next time you strap on a pair of roller blades or hop on your bike to go see a movie, think about the skills involved in making these things work. Trades are everywhere!

#### Should you consider the trades?

The image of tradespeople is not always a positive one. Many students see a career in the trades as something for those who can't make it in the business world. But the trades actually provide secure, challenging and financially rewarding careers. Some tradespeople go into management positions or become entrepreneurs who run their own businesses. Many small, successful businesses throughout Canada are owned and operated by people like you who started by training for a skilled trade.

The opportunities for women in the trades are endless. Today, women have entered virtually every trade and are enjoying successful careers.

#### How do you get started on a career in the trades?

Getting started in the trades is different from a getting started in any other profession. You must complete the apprenticeship training in order to become a certified skilled tradesperson.

#### What does apprenticeship mean?

Learning a trade through apprenticeship involves a combination of on-the-job experience and in-school training at a college or technical institute. As an apprentice, you learn from a certified tradesperson to become familiar with the skills and tools of your trade. And you'll be paid for your work.

#### What do you gain by becoming an apprentice?

A skills: As an apprentice, you learn to use the latest technology and techniques of the trade, because you are being trained in the workplace.

Money: You earn as you learn. Normally, you're paid an hourly wage which increases with successful completion of each level of apprenticeship. Today many certified tradespeople make as much, or more, than some professionals and are generally among the best paid people in any plant or any construction site.

Security: Certified tradespeople often have the most secure employment. The worker with a trade certificate is usually the first to be hired and the last to be laid off.

Job Opportunities: Canada's future depends on a highly skilled and trained workforce. Employers seek certified tradespeople who have proven their competence as highly skilled workers. The bottom line is that there are more job opportunities for certified tradespeople.

National Certification: Once you become a certified tradesperson, your opportunities widen even further. In some trades, you pass a "Red Seal" exam, which means you are certified to work anywhere in Canada.

### the key is a porte

How do you become an apprentice?

Apprenticeship training will involve up to
four years of post secondary and on-the-job
training. It's a real commitment, so it's worth taking some time to learn as much as you can about
the trade(s) you are considering. Many trades have
associations that would be happy to give you more
information. Your guidance counsellor also has a
list of those trades.

#### What are the requirements?

A To become an apprentice, you must be at least 16 years old and have a certain level of education, depending on the trade you are interested in. You also must find an employer who is willing and able to hire you as an apprentice.

In some trades, all applicants, regardless of their level of education, must write an entrance exam. Employers are always looking for interested, motivated and responsible employees. So the more education you have, the better your chances. Often, high schools offer technical courses that can increase your chances of being selected as an apprentice.

Programs like the School Workplace
Apprenticeship Program (SWAP) in Ontario
and the Registered Apprenticeship Program
(RAP) in Alberta actually allow you to study
for apprenticeship while completing your high
school diploma. Details on such programs are
available from your school guidance counsellor.

#### What now?

A if you want to learn more about career notions in the trades, consult your provincial apprenticeship board or visit your local CEC (Canada Employment Centre). Your guidance counsellor will be able to help you find their telephone numbers.

Prepared by Skills Canada Corp.

# Apprenticeship: Is this for you?

Get there in 2 years.

Barber A
Beauticlen
Recreational Vehicle Mechanic
Water Well Entitler

Since these apprenticeship programs vary from province, to province, please see your guidance counsellor for details.

Get there in

Welder
Baker
Boilermaker
Bricklayer
Cement Finisher
Cook
Gasfitter
Ironworker
Painter & Decorator
Roofer
Steel Fabricator
Tilesetter
Tower Crane Operator

#### Get there in **years**:

Cabinetmaker Carpenter Electrician **Electronics Technician** Glassworker **Heavy Duty Mechanic** Insulator Landscape Gardener **Machinist** Milwright Motorcycle Mechanic **Auto Mechanic** Plumber Printer Sheet Metal Worker Sprinkler Systems Installer Steamfitter/Pipefitter

Power Lineperson

## STRESSED OUT?

Do you have trouble sleeping? Too much work? Cramming for exams? Do you panic when your mind goes blank during tests? Do you feel nauseous when a big essay is due? If so, you're probably stressed out. A little stress is good (so they say) to keep you on your toes, but too much of it can bring you down physically and mentally. Keeping it under control is important, so here are some tips on how to manage stress in, and out of, school.

- 1. Exercise Pump it up increase your heartbeat 15 to 20 minutes each day.
- 2. Daydream Be creative imagine yourself in a fun place.
- 3. See yourself as a winner Positive thinking is the key to positive results.
- 4. Take care of yourself You've heard it all before good food, lots of sleep and regular exercise. They really help.
- 5. Praise yourself Don't be afraid to tell yourself how great you really are.
- 6. Have fun Relax take a break. It's good for you.
- 7. Talk it out Sometimes talking to someone a friend, your parents or a counsellor can help you see things in a different light and avoid more serious problems.
- 8. Keep things in perspective Worrying about a problem only makes the problem bigger. If you stay caim, it will be easier to do what you have to do.



We all avoid things we don't like to do. When was the last time you pressed the panic button before the exam? A word to the wise:

#### Plan ahead

- 1. Use your calendar: write down your assignment deadlines don't forget to circle the days you have tests.
- 2. Start early: give yourself lots of time to get the work done.
- Make a "To Do" list

Each day, make a list of the things you have to do. And do them! Place the most important ones at the top of the list. Cross things off as you complete them.

Know your best time of day

Work on your most difficult subjects when you feel at your best.

Avoid marathon study sessions

Study in shorter sessions. You'll get more done in three separate 3-hour sessions than in one 9-hour session.

Learn to say "no"

It's ok to let people know you don't want to be disturbed.

Get off the phone

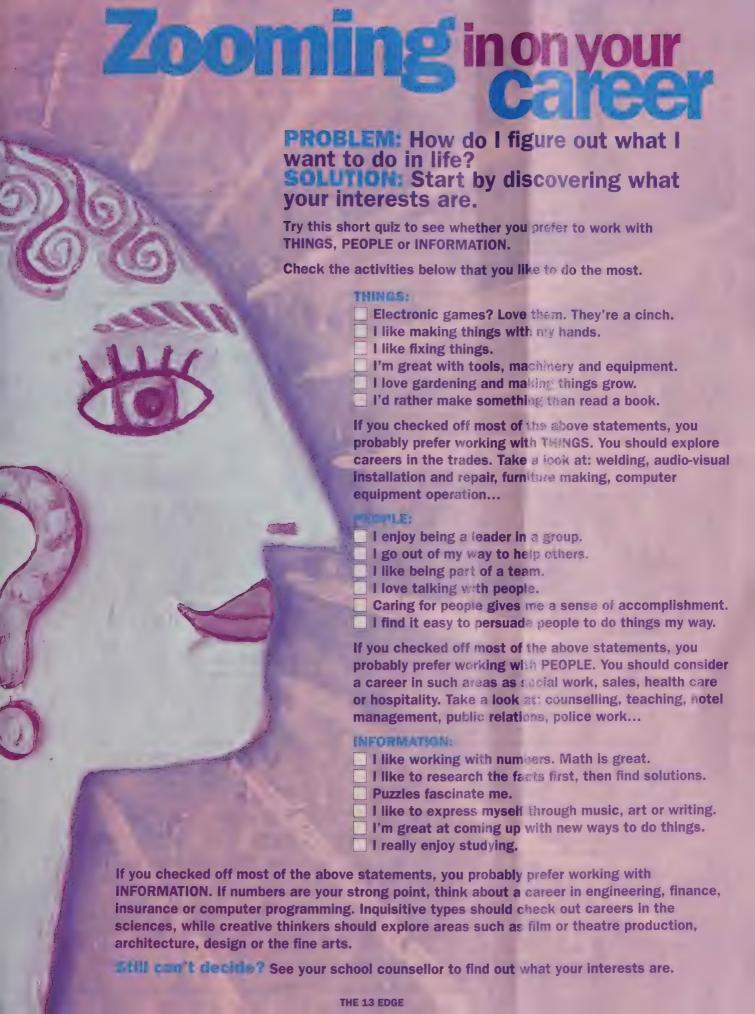
Talking on the phone is great, but it can also use up all your time. Know when to cut it short and hang up.

**Use** waiting time

If you have a long wait ahead of you or a long car ride, take a book along and catch up on your reading or homework.

Give yourself a little reward each day for all your hard work.





# Oscope

aries March 21-April 20: Courage, drive and enterprise are the mark of Aries. Your leadership style means that police work, security or criminology are all options. You love challenges and can easily handle the demands of education. Many film directors, doctors, researchers, scientists and lawyers are Aries natives.

Taureans love to work with their hands and their minds. Many are naturals in creative fields. Known for fairness, you could excel as a counsellor, social worker, or teacher. Taureans also make outstanding

designers, engineers, musicians, dentists or nurses.

gemini May 21-June 20: Perceptive and versatile, Geminis are scientists, international business people, aviators, detectives, medical technicians, travel agents, software designers and media personalities. Quickwitted twins get restless with the routine of format learning, but you still value education because it helps you focus your many talents.

Cancer June 21-July 22: Reflective and independent,
Cancer natives consider their options carefully
before acting – a big plus in education and
career planning. You find fulfilling careers
as actors, bankers, diplomats, computer
experts, cooks, dancers, nutritionists, sailors,
statisticians and teachers. Your home-loving streak

determined and loyal as fiery-hearted Leo – nor as fiercely studorn. Leo natives have dreams as big as their hearts, but they need to reach beyond their ample street sense to acquire the skills to succeed. Many Leos find acclaim as athletes, business people, doc-

tors, lawyers, politicians, actors and writers.

could make working at home an option.

virgo August 23-September 22: Virgos are attracted to occupations where details count.

Perfecting skills comes naturally. Receiving and giving education can be a lifelong quest. You could also succeed as a broker, crisis manager, editor, coach, medical imaging technologist, composer, physiotherapist or wholesaler.

**libra** September 23-October 22: Libras sometimes flirt with life's extremes, but only to test their gift for finding bal-

ance. Education can help balance your personal charm and enthusiasm with ready intellectual abilities.

You excel in sales and marketing. Venus, your ruler, may also propel you to explore a career as an artist, designer, beautician, barber, dentist, doctor, teacher or social worker.

**Scorpio** October 23-November 22: Sensitive, feisty, yet disciplined. Scorpios

usually know that they can accomplish whatever they wish and that education needs to be part of their plan. Your curiosity, love of excitement and ambition leads to careers in publishing, law,

medicine and construction. You perform well under pressure and could excel as an administrator, explosives and ballistics expert or fire-fighter.

Sagittarius November 23December 21: The expansive
Sagittarius personality knows no
boundaries. You are athletic
and love honour, reason, adven-

ture and travel. You could

easily build on these strengths as an artist, administrator, athlete, writer, entertainer, fashion designer, illustrator, photographer, judge, veterinarian or youth counsellor.

January 19: Determined, loyal and serious, you could find fulfillment in a wide range of careers. Education can lead you to the real achievement you seek as

a banker, builder, controller, corporate lawyer, criminologist, financial expert, police officer, realtor or repair person.

**aquarius** January 20-February 19: Aquarians genuinely care for others as well as themselves, and education will help them make a difference in the world. You might consider

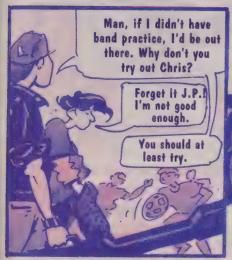
careers in computing, radio or television, manufacturing, or printing. You could also make an excellent accountant, inventor, investigator, research scientist, ecologist or electrician.

pisces February 20-March 20: "Learn first to succeed later" is their motto, and it seldom fails them. Pisceans can become authoritative experts in any field they

choose. You can achieve top honours as an actor, navigator, poet, corporate executive, psychiatrist, adventure tour leader, scientist, religious leader or technician.

THE 14 EDGF

# THEWinner's Edge











Computers are never going to replace cops on the beat. But computers are starting to make police work a lot easier - and a lot more challenging - than ever before.

Suppose, for instance, that the only clues left at the scene of a crime were a few bloodstains on a wall. Not much for Dick Tracy or Sherlock Holmes to work with. If they'd been able to use the software developed by Carleton University professor Fred Carter in Ottawa, they could have cut out days of old-fashioned detective work.

This new software uses

**Dead Simple** calculations about the path of blood droplets to reconstruct a violent crime. All the detectives need to do is

enter measurements of the angle and size of the droplet into the computer, along with the coordinates of each stain. The software then reconstructs each

> droplet's flight path and produces a 3D image of the crime showing the location of each blow. It also calculates the average hydrostatic pressure in the pool of blood just before the droplet was produced. This lets detectives infer how hard the victim was hit

and what type of weapon was used. Dr. Carter is now trying to add a

digital camera system to make it easier to

measure the evidence. This "dead simple" detection software is one example of the

way technology is changing the way we work.

#### robots don't think

The thinking behind Ford Motor's first car assembly lines - getting people to work like machines is history. This means that people can now concentrate on

tasks better suited for human beings tasks that require you to think. These big changes mean big opportunities in the new century.



tists are calling the 90s the "make it or break it" decade for the environment. Job one? Getting the earth off the critical list. Your brains and your hands are needed like never before.

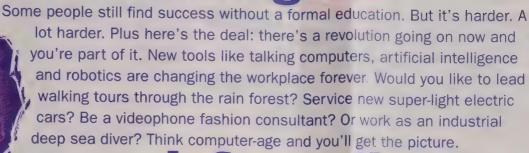
#### It's a Dirty Job

Cleaning up our environment means developing new skills and technologies to cope with industrial waste and pollution. New problems also

mean new jobs.

presented in association with the nergy Auditors Energy Conservation Technicians Ecologists • Environmental Engineers
• Forest Agrologists NE NEED YOUR SKILL CAF "LACK

SoLong Manufacturing Era...



...Hello informationworld.

futureforecast...jobSahead

Right now Canadian
earth scientists
are part of a
worldwide project
to track global
climate change. It's

called the International Geosphere-Biosphere Project and will provide the most complete picture ever of our living planet. This will lead to many new opportunities in environmental research and protection.

New products, ideas and technologies mean new jobs. Here are just a few that are guaranteed to have an impact in the next century.

Right now Canadian engineers are perfecting technology to carry high-

quality video
pictures on
ordinary phone
lines. Videophones will hit the
market this year and
will have an enormous
impact on dozens of
industries. What effect will

video phones have on shopping? It doesn't necessarily mean jobs will

be lost - it just means new ones will be created.

By the year 2001, deforestation, the production of industrial chemicals and the abuse of the land and ocean will likely be tightly controlled by international agreement.

Canada will need specialists to control and manage its forests, oceans and industries.

Are you interested?

By the year 2003, "zero emission" vehicles are slated to become mandatory in some countries. The game plan: chill out global warming. This means new skills will be required in order to keep up with advances in the

transportation industry.

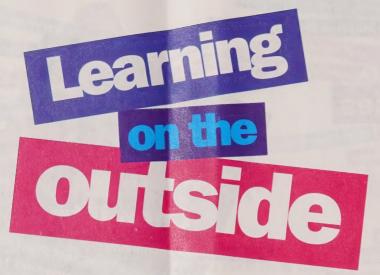
Stay In the 90s, almost 2/3 of all new jobs will require more than 12 years of education and training.

Stay a little longer...

Many new jobs in the 90s will require more than 17 years of education.







For many students, learning outside the classroom makes high school more relevant and easier to cope with. Take a look at some of the alternatives out there - you might find just what you didn't know you were looking for!

## Volunteering = Money

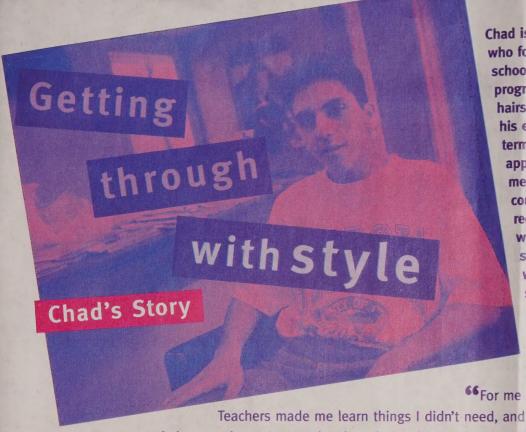
Volunteering offers real work experience in hundreds of different fields, from communications to management. Sports teams, health care and charitable organizations, and cultural and environmental groups are always looking for people to help out. Being a volunteer gives you the opportunity to contribute to a worthy cause and that makes you feel good. It's also a great chance to discover what you're interested in, get work experience and learn new skills. And it all goes on your résumé. Not a bad deal! For Allison, 17, the volunteer work even led to a paid job.

"I decided to volunteer at a local museum one summer... It made school more relevant and taught me that history's really

#### Allison's Story

about people, not just stuff going on in books. I got good work experience setting up displays, giving tours and helping out in the gift shop. Volunteering teaches you responsibility and all kinds of skills that you can use in other jobs. Now I get paid to work at the museum - it's great!"





Chad is a 16 year old grade 11 student who found his own reason to stay in school. Through his school's co-op program, he landed a job at a local hairstyling salon. With the help of his employer, he stayed for a second term and is now working toward an apprenticeship as a hairstylist. This means that all his hours of work will count towards his training, greatly reducing the number of months he will have to be in college. At the same time, he's getting paid for his work and finding that staying in school is a lot easier now that he's got a clear plan.

66 For me school was always so boring. Teachers made me learn things I didn't need, and when I made a mistake, I never

got a second chance. I knew I wanted to be a hairstylist, so it was really hard to sit through all those classes that had nothing to do with me. I thought about dropping out all the time, but I stayed because I knew it was hard to get a job without finishing high school. I've seen people drop out, and now they have nothing.

Since I started working at the salon, I have a reason to stay in school. My boss is always telling me I have to finish school to be a stylist, and now I can see exactly what I need to do – what I want with my life. My grades are even a bit better now that school isn't so irrelevant. I know that I'm lucky - school is a lot harder for kids who don't know what they want to do. The best trick is to find that out as soon as possible and then just go for it.

**Job Shadowing Gives You A Close-up Look** 

Job shadowing is another great way to check out different careers by spending part of a day watching someone do their job - close up. Being there helps you get a feel for the job, sample the rhythm of the workplace, and see if it's something you might like to do.

The easiest way to try job shadowing is to ask your school counsellor to help you out. But you can also do it on your own. Just make a list of the occupations that interest you, find names of organizations/companies where these occupations are offered, and then call people who are doing those jobs. Tell them you are interested in the work and ask them if you could follow them around for a few hours while they work.

You'll be surprised at how many people will feel flattered and want to show you what they do. If they turn you down, don't get discouraged, just ask someone else. You've got nothing to lose, and who knows - it might even lead to some work experience.

Co-op Ed: A chance to study reality

Many high schools have co-op programs where students split their time between the classroom and local businesses or trades. It's a great way to try out different careers.

For many students, like 17 year old Kylie, co-op programs can mean the difference between sticking it out and dropping out.

"I was thinking about dropping out because nothing in school seemed really relevant. Then I got

this great job placement at Kvlie's Storv TG Magazine where I get to do a little bit of everything - photo shoots, articles, and lots of office work. I keep doing things that make me think 'Oh, so this is why they're getting me to do this in school.' I've got a lot more focus now. I want to be a writer eventually, and I know I won't have any credentials if I don't finish school. My employer really encourages me to stay in school too, and it's nice to have that support. I've just learned so much by being in the workforce. You can see what your life is going to be like - and whether or not you're ready for it."

# Lid's Help Phone Do you need help? Have personal problems? Would you like Someone to talk to? 1-800-668-6868

The Kid's Help Phone is a free bilingual service available to you 24 hours a day. Someone is always there to help you. Just dial: 1-800-668-6868 (no charge)

#### Career Information Hotline Numbers

If a Hotline number is not currently available for your province or territory, please ask your school guidance counsellor for career information.

#### **ALBERTA**

**Career Information Hotline** 

Alberta residents only

Outside Alberta

NEWFOUNDLAND

**Career Information Hotline** 

St. John's

Outside St. John's

ONTARIO

Youth Employment Hotline

1-800-661-3753 (no charge)

(403) 422-4266

(709) 729-6600

1-800-563-6600 (no charge)

1-800-387-0777 (no charge)

## **Hou want to WORK, you need a Social Insurance Number (S.I.N.). Here's how you get one.**

- 1 Find your original birth certificate.
- 2 Go to your local Canada Employment Centre and complete a S.I.N. form.
- 13 Present your original birth certificate (not a photocopy) with your completed S.I.N. form at the front office.
- 4 Your card will be mailed to you within 4 to 8 weeks.
- This service is free of charge. However, if you lose your card, you will need to re-apply and pay a service charge for a replacement card.